

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1159

By Buttry

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate W.T. "Bill" Ratliff, Jr. of Knoxville, the 59th President of the Tennessee Road Builders Association.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as business and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is W.T. "Bill" Ratliff, Jr., who on March 13, 2004, was inducted as the 59th President of the Tennessee Road Builders Association (TRBA) at the organization's 76th Annual Meeting; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Knoxville, Mr. Ratliff serves with acumen and integrity as President of Tennessee Asphalt Company and Tennessee Aggregate Company, an exceptionally vital business concern that employs 400 workers and operates nine asphalt plants, three limestone quarries, and various sand and gravel pits; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ratliff is following in a distinguished family tradition of public service, as his father, W.T. Ratliff, Sr., served as TRBA President in 1976, making the Ratliffs the fifth father and son tandem to serve as TRBA President; and

WHEREAS, this august office is also firmly associated with Tennessee Asphalt Company: in addition to Bill Ratliff and his father, Phil Brown of the company served as TRBA President in 1994, for a total of three TRBA Presidents hailing from Tennessee Asphalt Company; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ratliff serves his industry with the utmost dedication as a member of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association's Board of Directors and has also served on the Association's Contractors Division Board since 1993; he previously served on the THC/PAC Committee for five years; and

WHEREAS, a member of TRBA since 1963, Tennessee Asphalt Company's affiliation with the Tennessee Road Builders Association is extensive, long-standing and mutually beneficial; and

WHEREAS, under Bill Ratliff's inspired leadership, Tennessee Asphalt Company was the recipient of the TRBA Smooth Paving Award in 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2002, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner's Top Quality Award in 2002, and the company has received safety awards too numerous to mention; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ratliff is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, from which he earned a degree in Business; and

WHEREAS, in his all too rare spare time, Mr. Ratliff enjoys hunting, fly fishing, swimming and driving his Model-A Ford; and

WHEREAS, his many personal and professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Ratliff is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Marianne, and their two children, William T. "Britt" and Kayce; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ratliff epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Ratliff for his dedication to the road building industry and making this State's exemplary highway system even better; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate W.T. "Bill" Ratliff, Jr. on his election and recent induction as the 59th President of the Tennessee Road Builders Association, honor and commend him for his meritorious service to the transportation needs of his fellow Tennesseans, and extend to him our best wishes for every success during his Presidency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.